

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A cage member engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface, said cage member configured to allow the nut member to be adjusted in at least one dimension relative to said base portion of said body of said cage member when the nut member is encaged by said cage member.

2. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is positioned proximate to said seam.

3. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said first arm portion and said second arm portion define a lower surface of said cage member which faces the mating surface, said at least one protrusion protruding from said lower surface of said cage member.

4. (Currently amended) A cage member ~~as defined in claim 1, wherein engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface, said at least one protrusion is a single protrusion which is segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of said single protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.~~

5. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 4, wherein said seam extends between said adjacent segments of said protrusion such that each said adjacent segment of said protrusion comprises generally half of said generally whole protrusion.

6. (Currently amended) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface, said at least one protrusion is a pair of protrusions, each said protrusion being segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of each said protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of each said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of each said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.

7. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 6, wherein said seam extends between said adjacent segments of each said protrusion such that each said adjacent segment of each said protrusion comprises generally half of said generally whole protrusions.

8. (Currently amended) A cage member ~~as defined in claim 1, wherein engageable with~~
a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage
member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture
formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut
member when the nut member is generally engaged by said cage member, said body having a
base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam
defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm
portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable
to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being
provided proximate to the mating surface, said at least one protrusion is formed as a dimple.

9. (Withdrawn) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one
protrusion is formed as a tab.

10-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A cage nut assembly comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and

a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said nut member when said nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface, said nut member being adjustable in at least one dimension relative to said base portion of said body of said cage member when said nut member is encaged by said cage member.

22. (Currently amended) A cage nut assembly ~~as defined in claim 21~~, wherein

comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and

a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having : n
aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of : aid
nut member when said nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body
having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion and
a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and
second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to
be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said se am
being provided proximate to the mating surface, said at least one protrusion is a single
protrusion which is segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of said single
protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween
and such that said adjacent segments of said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion ,
said adjacent segments of said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one
another along said seam.

23. (Currently amended) A cage nut assembly ~~as defined in claim 21, wherein~~
comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and
a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an
aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said
nut member when said nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body
having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion and
a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and
second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to
be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam
being provided proximate to the mating surface, said at least one protrusion is a pair of
protrusions, each said protrusion being segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments
of each said protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided
therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of each said protrusion form a general y
whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of each said protrusion being weldable to the
mating surface and to one another along said seam.

24-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said body
includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in
order to encage the nut member within said body.

28. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member is further configured to be moved in a second direction, which is opposite said first direction, in order to allow for removal of the nut member from within said body.

29. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member is integrally formed with said body.

30. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said body includes two flange members.

31. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member extends from said base portion of said body.

32. (Currently amended) A cage member ~~as defined in claim 31, wherein engageable with~~
a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage
member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture
formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut
member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a
base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, said body
includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in
order to encage the nut member within said body, said at least one flange member extendi
ng from said base portion of said body, said at least one flange member is generally L-shaped
such that it has a first portion and a second portion which is generally angled from said first
portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said
first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion
configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating
surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein said body
includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in
order to encage said nut member within said body.

35. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange member is further configured to be moved in a second direction, which is opposite said first direction, in order to allow for removal of said nut member from within said body.

36. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange is integrally formed with said body.

37. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said body includes two flange members.

38. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange member extends from said base portion of said body.

39. (Currently amended) A cage nut assembly ~~as defined in claim 38, wherein~~

comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and

a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said nut member when said nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, said body includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in order to encage said nut member within said body, said at least one flange member extends from said base portion of said body, said at least one flange member is generally L-shaped such that it has a first portion and a second portion which is generally angled from said first portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface.

40-42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently amended) A cage member engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising :
body configured to engage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein, said aperture configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body defining a weldable seam and having at least one protrusion, said protrusion configured to provide that said protrusion is weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said cage member configured to allow the nut member to be adjusted in at least one dimension relative to said body of said cage member when the nut member is encaged by said cage member.

44. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said cage member and the nut member are separately formed and non-integral.

45. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein said cage member and said nut member are separately formed and non-integral.

46. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 43, wherein said cage member and the nut member are separately formed and non-integral.